

**Executive Host Information 2005**  
**Placement Week November 15-19, 2004**

Office Name: MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

Position Title: PROGRAM AND POLICY ANALYST

How many total staff are in your immediate office / branch? (Select one option, mark with X)

1-5	
6-10	
> 10	X

Have you previously hosted a Sea Grant fellow (Select one option, mark with X)

Yes	
No	X

If fellow is currently on assignment, please provide contact information.

Name	
Tel	
Email	

Does your office accept non-United States (foreign) citizens? (Select one option, mark with X)

Yes	X
No	

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**Organizational Overview**

***Mission Statement:***

The Commission is charged with developing, reviewing, and making recommendations on domestic and international actions and policies of all federal agencies with respect to marine mammal protection and conservation, and with carrying out a research program.

***Brief Overview of Your Office's work:***

The Commission consists of three Commissioners, nine scientific advisors, and 11 professional staff who devote their efforts to conservation of marine mammals. The Commission reviews federal agency programs, works with interested parties on particular marine mammal projects, and advises Congress on aspects of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and related legislation. The Commission also maintains a small research program that supports a variety of scientific, legal, and administrative analyses.

Do you have partnership projects, multi-agency workgroups, or working relationships with other offices? Please list.

The Commission works, formally and informally, with several federal agencies (including the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Navy, the Minerals Management Service, the National Science Foundation, etc.), state agencies, non-governmental organizations, Congressional staff, and private interests on programs that address marine mammal research, management, and conservation.
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**Assignment Description.**

Estimated Fellow Travel, Out-of-Office: (Select one option, mark with X)

0 days / month	
1-3 days / month	
4-7 days / month	X
8-10 days / month	
> 2 weeks / month	

Estimated DC-Area Travel: (Select one option, mark with X)

0 days / month	
1-3 days / month	
4-7 days / month	X
8-10 days / month	
> 2 weeks / month	

Does this position require mandatory skills: (Select one option, mark with X)

Yes	
No	X

If yes, please list. (e.g. SCUBA certification, Spanish fluency, etc.).

Desired Background Skills: Please list. (e.g. strong written / communication skills, knowledge of Microsoft PowerPoint software, etc.).

The selected Fellow should have strong analytical and writing skills, along with a solid understanding of marine resource conservation. The Commission has identified several potential projects that the fellow might work on ranging from legal analyses related to the reauthorization of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to analysis of scientific research proposals submitted to the Commission. Working knowledge of office computer software is essential. Outgoing personality will help the fellow work with people in multiple agencies.

In 300 words or less, please describe the tasks, duties, or projects the fellow will undertake, the skills a fellow will gain, and the deliverables a fellow can expect to produce from completing these tasks.

The Commission has a small staff that requires that each member of the staff must be flexible. We expect scientists to know and understand legal issues and vice versa. The Commission has a number of specific projects on which potential Fellows might work, depending on the expertise and interests of the individual and the needs of the Commission. Several potential projects are described below.

The Commission scientific program reviews all national research programs and projects related to marine mammals and supports innovative research projects for the conservation of marine mammals that are not likely to receive funding elsewhere. Funding for research and recovery efforts provides an important measure of our society's efforts to address these problems. The Fellow may participate in, or lead, an overview of federal funding for marine

mammal research, recovery, and conservation efforts and evaluate how current spending compares to critical priorities that leading scientists recently identified at a Commission research consultation. The Commission manages a small research program of its own. One project a Fellow might work on would be to assist in developing research priorities for the year.

The Commission plans to hold workshops on several key marine mammal conservation issues, such as why beaked whales seem to be more affected by anthropogenic sound than are other cetaceans, the ecosystem effects of killer whale predation in the North Pacific Ocean, how to address problems of increasing marine mammal populations, how to identify appropriate conservation units for managing marine mammal populations, and others. The number and extent of these projects will be determined, in part, by the pending fiscal year 2004 appropriation. The Commission could use a Fellow to help with any of these projects.

Congress is in the midst of reauthorizing the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The Commission works closely with Congressional members and staff, other members of the Executive Branch, and constituents on reauthorization. The Commission could use a Fellow to assist with our efforts to work with Congress on MMPA reauthorization. As part of a small staff, the Fellow is given a great deal of responsibility and can expect to gain leadership and communication skills through exposure to multi-agency colleagues and meetings, both local and national. He or she will leave the fellowship with a large network of contacts in the marine mammal conservation community. Tangible products in the form of written reports and documents are some of the potential outcomes. The year will be an exciting opportunity for exposure to critical marine conservation issues through contact with a variety of agencies and legislative staff.